



# UNCLE SAM IN THE 6IX



A NEWSLETTER BROUGHT TO YOU BY  
THE U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL TORONTO'S PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION



Consul General Greg Stanford introduces the U.S.-Canada Innovation Partnership

## Innovation Partnership to Elevate Cross-Border Collaboration

On September 18, 2019 Consul General Greg Stanford launched the U.S.-Canada Innovation Partnership with leading institutions across Ontario to promote a deeper bilateral relationship through collaboration on innovation, technology, research, science, and related issues. The Consulate announced the appointments of its partnership, composed of nationally and internationally recognized leaders, including CEOs of leading technology incubators MaRS Discovery District and the Digital Media Zone (DMZ); Executives from Cisco, Google Canada, OMERS, and Accenture; Presidents and Vice Presidents from the University of Toronto, Ryerson University, University of Waterloo, McMaster University, and York University; experts from the Cross-Border Institute at the University of Windsor; the Dean of Northeastern University Toronto; leaders from the Government of Ontario and City of Kitchener; representatives of the Toronto Region Board of Trade, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, and Torys, LLP; and the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research, Vector Institute, Evergreen, The Knowledge Society and the Centre for Social Innovation.

In launching the Partnership, Consul General Stanford noted, “We are looking forward to leveraging the wisdom of our partnership’s founding members in a collaborative approach to advance shared innovation and technology priorities for the benefit of a prosperous and secure North America.”



United States Air Force Band "SuperSonic" members in front of the iconic TORONTO sign at Nathan Phillips Square

## United States Air Force Band SuperSonic’s First Canadian Concerts



SuperSonic performing at the Consulate’s Fourth of July event hosted at the Ontario Science Centre

To celebrate Canada Day and U.S. Independence Day, the United States Consulate General in Toronto hosted a free, public concert with the United States Air Force Band, "SuperSonic" at Nathan Phillips Square on July 2, 2019. The spectators enjoyed Top 40 pop, rock, classical rock and country music performed by the band. SuperSonic’s engagement highlighted strong military ties and profound friendship between the two countries.

During their visit, the band also performed for veterans at Sunnybrook Veterans Centre. In addition to performing, SuperSonic's members also interacted with veterans and thanked them for their service. Canada's largest Veterans Centre Sunnybrook cares for World War II and Korean War veterans. Later the band performed at the Consulate’s Fourth of July event hosted at the Ontario Science Centre.

The announcement about the band's public performance was covered by Toronto's popular outlet BlogTO as well as a number of regional media outlets such as the Waterloo Record.

### IN THIS ISSUE

U.S. CONSULATE TORONTO HOSTS A ROSH HASHANAH RECEPTION

CONSULATE SUPPORTS INVENTORS HALL OF FAME'S INAUGURAL CAMP INVENTION

DAS STRAYER AT 5G & CYBERSECURITY ROUNDTABLE



TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

# Consulate Supports Inventors Hall of Fame's Inaugural Camp Invention

On July 10, 2019 Consul General Greg Stanford and special guests from government and industry launched the inaugural Camp Invention™ in Oshawa, organized by the National Inventors Hall of Fame. This project was funded by the U.S. Mission to Canada grants program and supported a one-week elementary school-level non-profit summer enrichment program. Another camp was held in the summer in Ottawa.

The 2019 Supercharged™ program ran at Durham College's Oshawa campus and was overseen by teachers and counselors from the Durham District School Board and Durham Catholic District School Board. Campers learned about ocean navigation and survival skills on a remote island, conducted mock DNA tests on farm animals, and learned how to protect their own intellectual property. At the end of the camp, each camper built their own personal robot to take home with them.

Local media attended and covered the event: <https://oshawaexpress.ca/camp-makes-canadian-debut-at-durham-college/>.



Camp Invention participants join Consul General Stanford and officials for the opening ceremony



Campers at Durham College's Oshawa campus working on a group project

# Consulate Supports MIT Innovation Challenge

The U.S. Consulate supported this year's MIT Inclusive Innovation Challenge (IIC). This year for the first time, the North American semi-finals were held at the MaRs Discovery District in Toronto. The IIC supports entrepreneurs by recognizing and rewarding those whose technological solutions are aimed at promoting inclusive growth in the areas of financial inclusion, income growth and job creation, skills development and opportunity matching, and technology access.

The semi-final round of American and Canadian entrepreneurs took place on Sept. 18, 2019. CG Stanford was the lead judge on the income growth and job creation panel. Winners in each of the four categories will go on to the finals at MIT in Cambridge, Massachusetts in November 2019.

# Students Get Exclusive Access to U.S. Tech, Universities Through Consulate-Supported Project

From June to August 2019, the U.S. Consulate partnered on the "VentureKids TECH Immersive Program" which brought rural Ontario youth to Toronto to work with U.S. tech experts. The program was the first of its kind to give underserved youth living in small towns and rural areas in Eastern Ontario the opportunity to learn critical coding know-how, entrepreneurship skills and artificial intelligence fundamentals from industry-leading experts in Toronto. In addition to the organizer, social enterprise VentureKids, partners included Northeastern University Toronto (the only U.S. university with a campus in Toronto), Microsoft Canada and Linked-In. CG Stanford presented certificates to the twenty students who completed the program on August 24, 2019.

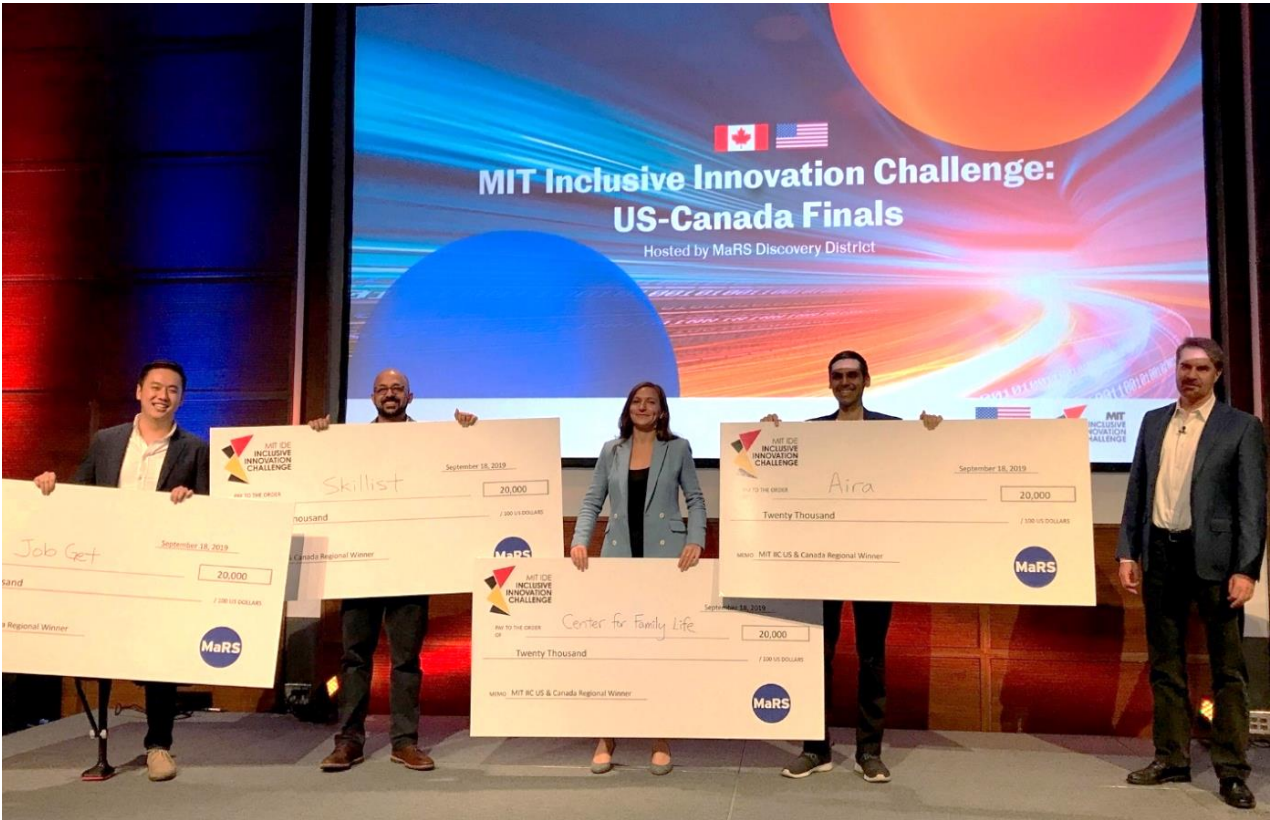


CG Stanford presenting certificates to the graduates of the "VentureKids TECH Immersive Program"

# DAS Strayer at 5G & Cybersecurity Roundtable

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Cyber, International Communications, and Information Policy Robert Strayer participated in a 5G & Cybersecurity roundtable in Toronto on July 19, 2019. Hosted by HarrisX company, the roundtable hosted a high-level panel of policy, media, and business experts to discuss what American and Canadian business decision-makers and consumers really think about 5G, what they are excited for and worried about, and the implications of the new network for cybersecurity.

DAS Strayer was also interviewed by BNN's Amanda Lang on the issue: <https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/huawei-rift-not-part-of-u-s-china-trade-war-u-s-official-1.1289762>.



MIT Innovation Challenge winners receiving their cash prizes



INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

U.S. Consulate Toronto Hosts a Rosh Hashanah Reception

The U.S. Consulate Toronto hosted its first ever Rosh Hashanah reception in partnership with the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre (FSWC) on Monday, September 23. The Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre for Holocaust Studies is a non-profit organization committed to countering racism and anti-Semitism. The reception was held at the Consul General’s residence in celebration of the Jewish New Year, gathering Jewish faith leaders and influential community members for an evening of cultural festivities.

The event was well-attended, with over eighty guests from different sectors, including rabbis, civil society and government contacts. Mary Ng, Federal Minister of Small Business and Export

Promotion attended, as did Ontario Minister of Education Stephen Lecce and multiple Members of the Provincial Parliament. Consul Generals of Israel, Russia, Greece, Hungary and Japan were also in attendance. CG Stanford welcomed everyone and reinforced the United States’ commitment to Israel and the fight against anti-Semitism. Israeli Consul General Galit Baram also delivered remarks, stressing the importance of the Israeli-U.S. relationship. As per Jewish tradition, CG Stanford was gifted honey by one of the guests, symbolizing the sweetness of the new year ahead.

The event allowed the consulate to expand its network among Toronto’s Jewish community, building relationships for future programming.



CG Stanford and Mrs. Stanford being gifted honey – a symbol of sweetness of the new year ahead



Mr. Yasin Dwyer, Executive Director of the Muslim Chaplaincy of Toronto, is one of the twenty international participants of the “Let Leaders Lead” International Visitor Leadership Program

In September and October 2019, the U.S. Consulate was thrilled to send two local partners on Department of State International Visitor Leadership Programs (IVLP). Launched in 1940, the IVLP helps strengthen U.S. engagement with countries around the world and cultivate lasting relationships by connecting current and emerging foreign leaders with their American counterparts through short-term visits to the United States. The first exchange program, titled “Let Leaders Lead” focused on interfaith dialogue and the overall role and impact of religion in society. Mr. Yasin Dwyer, Executive Director of the Muslim Chaplaincy of Toronto, was one of twenty international participants and also the only Canadian invited to attend.

U.S. Consulate Toronto Sends Participants on U.S. Department of State’s International Visitor Leadership Program



Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom Sam Brownback and Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs Marie Royce welcome the “Let Leaders Lead” International Visitor Leadership Program participants

The second exchange program focused on “Exploring the Implications of the Sharing Economy” and involved the participation of several Canadians including Ryerson University’s Hussam Ayyad - Senior Director of Programs and Partnerships at Ryerson’s Digital Media Zone (DMZ). Both programs, which are fully covered by the U.S. Department of State, offered exclusive meetings with American counterparts throughout various cities in the United States.

U.S. Department of State Alum Honors Brother



On August 23, 2019 Public Affairs Officer from CG Toronto delivered remarks at Pakistan Minority Day in Brampton, ON, organized by Peter Bhatti, who received an award from Secretary Pompeo at the inaugural Religious Freedom Forum in Summer 2018. Mr. Bhatti is the brother of slain Pakistani Minister of Minority Rights Shahbaz Bhatti. The event celebrated Pakistan Minority Day which is held annually on August 11.

PAO remarks highlighted the Administration’s emphasis on religious freedom as a fundamental right. At the event, Mayor of Brampton Patrick Brown dedicated a park in Brampton in the name of Shahbaz Bhatti. Several MPPs and other local officials attended the event, which was covered by Canadian diaspora media groups.

PICTURE CAPTION: Mayor of Brampton Patrick Brown and Peter Bhatti dedicate a park in Brampton in the name of Shahbaz Bhatti



# Toronto International Film Festival U.S. - Canada Reception

On September 10, the U.S. Consulate Toronto co-hosted a reception for the 2019 Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), gathering artists and filmmakers from across North America. The reception was held in partnership with Cinespace Film Studios, a company that operates studio facilities in both Canada and the U.S.

The official program included opening remarks by Consul General Greg Stanford, who then gave the stage to Vice President of Cinespace Toronto, Jim Mirkopolous, and TIFF Director of Government Relations, Alan Convery. The reception also hosted Aidan Gallagher, a star from the TV show Umbrella Academy and the youngest UN Goodwill Ambassador. Canadian Consul General to Los Angeles, Zaib Shaikh, was also present, further solidifying the bilateral partnership.



**Umbrella Academy’s star Aidan Gallagher joining the Consulate staff and guests at the reception**

With over 250 guests, the reception promoted industry networking across the border and celebrated one of Toronto's biggest cultural events. The event was highlighted in BlogTO.

# Fulbright Alums Celebrate TIFF

Fulbright Canada, together with the Toronto chapter of the Fulbright Canada Alumni Association, hosted its third annual alumni reception in celebration of TIFF on September 12. Michael Hawes, the CEO of Fulbright Canada delivered opening remarks emphasizing the 30th anniversary of Fulbright program in Canada. Public Affairs Officer Anne Seshadri emphasized that Fulbright alums are stewards of the bilateral relationship. In his remarks, Toronto Chapter head Jonathan Yantzi spoke of the group’s progress over the last year. After the reception, the guests including approximately 50 Fulbright and Killam alumni attended the international premiere of the movie “Blow the Man Down.” Directed by two first-time American filmmakers Danielle Krudy and Bridget Savage Cole, the movie tells the story of two sisters in a small fishing village in Maine coping with a violent crime. A lively Q&A with the directors, producers and several lead actors (including ever-amazing Margo Martindale from “The Americans”) shed light on the history behind making the film and inspirations it drew from.



**Fulbright Alums at the Toronto International Film Festival**

U.S. Consulate General Toronto  
360 University, Toronto, ON M5G 1S4  
Email: [TurdievaM@state.gov](mailto:TurdievaM@state.gov)

# Consulate Supports U.S. Participation at TIFF Industry Conference



**U.S. panelists at TIFF’s 2019 Industry Conference sharing strategies and best practices**

On September 7, 2019, the U.S. Consulate supported the participation of various U.S. panelists at TIFF’s 2019 Industry Conference. Leading media production companies, the panelists encouraged storytellers and filmmakers to be more ambitious with their story ideas, while sharing strategies and best practices to help develop, diversify and maximize their IP potential. The representatives were Sanjay Sharma, founder and CEO of Marginal Mediaworks, Margaret Boykin, Director of Development at Ubisoft Film and Television, Aron Phillips, Senior Director of Development at UNINTERRUPTED, Anne Carey, President of Production at Archer Gray. The conference, which was attended by over 5,600 delegates from all over the world including almost 2,000 delegates from the U.S., also included master classes with industry veterans, networking sessions for delegates, and panel discussions on a variety of topics.

On social media: [@usconstoronto](https://twitter.com/usconstoronto)

# U.S. Consul General Hosts Mayoral Lunch

On July 19, Consul General Greg Stanford hosted a mayoral lunch at his residence to encourage U.S.- Canada municipal partnerships and to discuss best practices that build community resiliency. In attendance were city representatives from Toronto, Mississauga, Brampton, Markham, Vaughan, Markham, Kitchener and Mississauga. The Consulate applauds the efforts of existing cross-border partnerships in many areas- including technology, academia, culture and combatting shared challenges.



**CG Stanford host mayors and municipal representatives from Toronto, Mississauga, Brampton, Markham, Vaughan, Markham, Kitchener and Mississauga**

# CG Stanford: Why Trade with America is So Critical to Barrie

During his visit to the City of Barrie, CG Stanford spoke about trade, government policies and emerging technology with local community information portal Simcoe.com. “Canadians and Americans really know how to do business together,” Stanford told Simcoe.com following a meeting with Mayor Jeff Lehman at Barrie City hall. “The economies are so integrated. It is the largest bilateral trade relationship we have.” The CG noted from emerging technologies to municipal servicing, governments at all tiers can learn from each other to reduce costs for taxpayers and improve the quality of life of their residents.

United States Consul General in Toronto visits Barrie to discuss trade, government policies and emerging technology  
NEWS Jul 02, 2019 by [Chris Simon](#) Barrie Advance



**Mayor Jeff Lehman greets CG Stanford at Barrie City Hall**

[Unsubscribe](#)